

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented). An accessory for reducing the kick felt by a shooter when a firearm is discharged, said accessory comprising:

a pad, a rigid plate, and a vibration decay pattern modifier;

said pad and said decay pattern modifier both being fabricated from an organic, elastomeric material;

said pad having therein an aperture opening onto a face of the pad;

said plate being assembled in face-to-face relationship with that face of the pad onto which the aperture in the pad opens; and

the decay pattern modifier having an element which is disposed in the aperture in the elastomeric pad.

Claim 2 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which the vibration decay pattern modifier has a mushroom-like configuration defined by a stem and an integral head, said stem being fixed to said support.

Claim 3 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which the plate is configured to complement the configuration of a specific firearm stock.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which:

the plate has a stock engaging element and a side wall which extends around the periphery of said element, [[.]] and is oriented at right angles to the element to form a cavity in said plate;

said pad having a shoulder seated on said wall and a portion which extends into the cavity and aligns the pad with the plate.

Claim 6 (previously submitted). The combination of:

an accessory as defined in claim 1;

a firearm which has a stock; and

fasteners for: (a) maintaining the elastomeric pad and the plate of the accessory in assembled relationship, and (b) mounting the accessory to the stock of a firearm.

Claims 7 – 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 7 in which the accessory mounting component is a sleeve adapted to receive the butt of a gunstock, said sleeve being an integral part of the accessory.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). An accessory as defined in claim 1 wherein the pad aperture in which the second element of the vibration decay pattern modifier is disposed is so sealed that said pad provides pneumatic cushioning when the firearm is discharged.

Claim 12 (currently amended). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which there is a clearance around the periphery of the second decay pattern modifier's second element between that periphery and the boundary of the aperture in which said element is disposed.

Claim 13 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which the decay pattern modifier, the elastomeric pad, or the decay pattern modifier and the elastomeric pad are fabricated from a material which comprises a chloroprene polymer.

Claim 14 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 13 in which said material has a Durometer hardness in the range of 12 to 30.

Claim 15 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in which the elastomeric pad has the capability of elastically compressing to reduce the kick felt by the shooter when the firearm is discharged.

Claim 16 (withdrawn). An accessory as defined in claim 15 in which there are cavities in the elastomeric pad which reduce the thickness of the pad material and thereby contribute to the compressibility of the pad.

Claim 17 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 wherein the material from which the elastomeric pad is fabricated has properties which make the pad capable of modifying the decay pattern of vibrations set up in said pad.

Claim 18 (previously presented). An accessory for reducing the kick experienced by the shooter when a firearm is discharged:

said accessory comprising a plate and a resiliently compressible kick reducing pad;

said pad having a cavity opening to one face of the pad; and

said plate being so disposed in face-to-face relationship with the pad as to close said opening and form a sealed pocket that can collapse to elastically

compress air filling the pocket when the firearm is discharged, additionally pneumatically cushioning the kick felt by the shooter upon the discharge of the firearm.

Claim 19 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 18 which has a vibration decay pattern modifier disposed in the aperture in the pad.

Claims 20 and 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 19 in which there is an additional sealed decay pattern modifier-free cavity in said pad further contributing to the cushioning afforded by the accessory when the firearm is discharged.

Claim 23 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 22 in which said additional cavity extends completely through said pad and accommodates a fastener designed to secure the accessory to the gunstock.

Claim 24 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 18: which comprises a vibration decay pattern modifier; said modifier having a mushroom-like configuration defined by a stem and an integral head; and

said head being disposed in the cavity in the resiliently compressible pad.

Claim 25 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 24 in which there is a clearance around the periphery of the decay pattern modifier head between that periphery and the boundary of the compressible pad aperture in which said element is disposed.

Claims 26-28 (cancelled).

Claim 29 (withdrawn). An accessory as defined in claim 28:
which comprises a component for modifying the decay pattern of
vibrations set up in the accessory when the firearm is discharged;
said decay pattern modifying component having a head and an integral
stem;
said stem being attached to said plate;
there being a cavity in said elastomeric pad; and
the head of the decay pattern modifying component being disposed in said
cavity.

Claim 30 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 39 in
which said elastomeric pad, or said decay pattern modifying component, or said
pad and said component are fabricated from a material which comprises a
chloroprene polymer.

Claim 31 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 39 in
which the material has a Durometer hardness in the range of 12 to 30.

Claim 32 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 39 in
which the elastomeric pad is hollowed out by at least one vibration decay pattern
modifier-free cavity to increase the kick-reducing effect offered by said pad.

Claims 33 and 34 (cancelled).

Claim 35 (previously presented). An accessory as defined in claim 1 in
which the decay pattern modifier has a second element which is integral with the
first element, the second element being integrated with the plate.

Claim 36 (previously presented). An accessory for reducing the kick felt by a shooter when a firearm is discharged, said accessory comprising:

- a pad, a rigid plate, and a vibration decay pattern modifier;
- said pad and said decay pattern modifier both being fabricated from an organic, elastomeric material;
- said pad being therein an aperture opening onto a face of the pad;
- said plate being assembled in face-to-face relationship with the face of the pad onto which the aperture in the pad opens; and
- the decay pattern modifier having an element ~~plate~~ which is disposed in the aperture in the elastomeric pad; and
- the pad aperture in which the element of the vibration decay pattern modifier is disposed being so sealed that said pad provides pneumatic cushioning when the firearm is discharged.

Claim 37 (previously presented). An accessory for reducing the kick felt by a shooter when a firearm is discharged, said accessory comprising:

- a pad, a rigid plate, and a vibration decay pattern modifier;
- said pad and said decay pattern modifier both being fabricated from an organic, elastomeric material;
- said pad having therein an aperture opening onto a face of the pad;
- said plate being assembled in face-to-face relationship with the face of the pad onto which the aperture in the pad opens;
- the decay pattern modifier having an element which is disposed in the aperture in the elastomeric pad; and

there being at least one additional cavity in the elastomeric pad which reduces the thickness of the pad material and thereby contributes to the compressibility of the pad.

Claim 38 (previously presented). An accessory for reducing the kick felt by a shooter when a firearm is discharged, said accessory comprising:

a generally rigid plate;

an elastomeric pad fixed in face-to-face relationship to said plate; and

a component for modifying the decay pattern of vibrations set up in the accessory when the firearm is discharged;

said decay pattern modifying component having a head and an integral stem;

said stem being attached to said plate;

there being a cavity in said elastomeric pad; and

the head of the decay pattern modifying component being disposed in said cavity.

Claim 39 (previously presented). The combination of:

an accessory as defined in claim 1;

a firearm which has a stock;

threaded fasteners for: (a) maintaining the elastomeric pad and the plate of the accessory in assembled relationship, and (b) mounting the accessory to the stock of a firearm; and

a rigid mounting plate;

said mounting plate being embedded in said pad and providing a mechanism for supporting the threaded fasteners.